U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and
Agriculture Ocean Transportation Coalition (AgOTC)

Ag Shipper Workshops & Luncheons
Boise * Portland * Atlanta * Modesto * Fresno

AGENDA
What are your transportation concerns? All agricultural shippers are encouraged to join these informal, off the record (no press, no carriers), discussion of agricultural transportation issues and solutions.

- Update on ocean freight rates and surcharges. Which way are they heading?

- Container Shortage. Both reefer and dry containers are in short supply for agricultural exports, as is space onboard ships. When will the situation improve?

- Port Congestion -- Status of daytime loading fee at Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Will it spread to other ports? How will the new fee be collected and refunded? What services are being offered "after hours"?

- Cargo security fee -- Congress continues to consider imposing a surcharge on all cargo to help pay for port security. What to expect in the next Congress.

- The "7-Day Rule" -- Congress wants to impose hefty fines for cargo sitting on the docks more than 7 days. What is AgOTC (and others) doing to fight this provision? Will it be enough?

- Automated Export System (AES) & Option 4. The new, revised AES will soon be MANDATORY for all exports, making it tougher to qualify for Option 4 (post departure filing). What can agricultural shippers expect and when? How can one qualify for Option 4?

- FDA Prior Notice for food imports. Full enforcement is underway, with steep penalties for even the most minor errors in transmission. What to watch for and what to do when problems arise.

- International wood packing material (WPM) standard. Some of our trading partners already require compliant WPM for export shipments. Imports into the US must comply by September 2005. What is required and how do you find "compliant" WPM in foreign countries?

- New contracting options with Non-Vessel-Operating-Common Carriers -- How it can benefit agricultural exporters.

- Trucking. The shortage of trucks and drivers continues to build what can we expect in 2005?

- Rail – Rates through the roof, service through the floor threaten agricultural shipments.

- Other issues, Local Concerns. Depending upon the location of the workshops (below), we will address Columbia River vessel service, West Coast congestion and nighttime loading hours, lack of rail service, and any other issues shippers may wish to discuss.

Workshop Dates:	Fee To Attend:
Boise, ID – January 17, 2005 Portland, OR – January 18, 2005 Atlanta, GA – February 3, 2005 Modesto, CA – February 23, 2005 Fresno, CA – February 24, 2005	$20 AgOTC Members $40 Non-AgOTC Members *Sorry, no carriers or press.*

United States Department of Agriculture and the Agriculture Ocean Transportation Coalition
Ag Shippers Workshops
REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s):	
Company:	
Tel:	Fax:
Email:	

Select a Workshop

Boise, ID
January 17, 2005
9am-Noon (includes breakfast)
Location: The Grove Hotel
245 South Capitol Boulevard (209-472-3358)
Co-Sponsored by Port of Tacoma

Portland, OR
January 18, 2005
10am-1pm (includes lunch)
Location: Oregon Convention Center
777 NE ML King Boulevard (503-235-7575
Co-Sponsored by Port of Portland

Atlanta, GA
February 3, 2005
10am-1pm (includes lunch)
Location: Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport
1325 Virginia Avenue (404-704-1425)
Co-Sponsored by USA Poultry & Egg Export Council

Modesto, CA
February 23, 2005
10am-1pm (includes lunch)
Location: Doubletree Hotel
1150 Ninth Street (209-526-6000)
Co-Sponsored by Ports of Oakland and Los Angeles

Fresno, CA
February 24, 2005
10am-1pm (includes lunch)
Location: Ramada Inn University
324 East Shaw Avenue (559-224-4040)
Co-Sponsored by Ports of Los Angeles and Oakland

PAYMENT – CHECKS ONLY

AgOTC Members: $20 each   Non-AgOTC Members: $40 each

Enclosed is my check for $_____

TO REGISTER

1. Fax form to 202-783-4422 and
2. Mail check payable to "AgOTC" to: AgOTC
                                        1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
                                        Suite 315
                                        Washington, D.C. 20004

Questions? Contact AgOTC at 202-783-3333
or visit us at www.AgOTC.org